

REMARKS

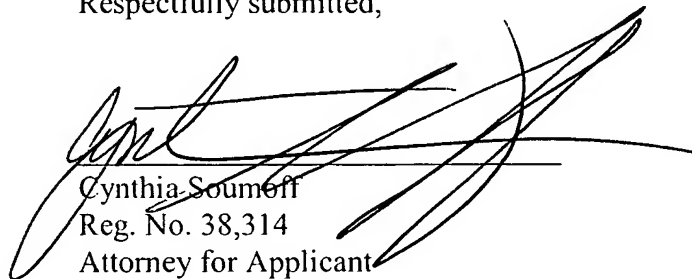
The Office Action dated August 8, 2008 has been carefully considered. Claims 1, 3-9, 36, 39 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuo et al. (J. Bacter., Feb 1996, Vol. 178(4), pp. 971-975). All the other claims are allowed.

Applicant has amended the rejected claims, consonant with a previous amendment of claims, to recite that the autoinducer-2 is not a homoserine lactone. It is believed that this amendment overcomes the rejection. Since this is the sole issue remaining with regard to patentability, the examiner is invited to call Applicant's legal representative for any other minor issues that may surface, in order that the current case be moved expeditiously toward allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that all claims be allowed. It is believed that no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,

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